

## Samuel Swartwout to Andrew Jackson, April 26, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

New York, April 26, 1819.

*My dear General,* I meant to have availed myself of the opportunity afforded by my young friend Mr. Colden's visit to you, to renew the assurances of my attachment and devotion. He left here yesterday on his way to Nashville and will shortly be with you, the bearer of the token of our City's regard. <sup>1</sup> I intended to have troubled him with my letter, but left it at home when I went over to bid him good bye. Mr. Colden is very desirous of accompanying the President in his tour

<sup>1</sup> A son of Cadwallader D. Colden, mayor of New York, where, two months before, the freedom of the city had been presented to General Jackson in a gold box.

through the western Country. <sup>2</sup> My Brother Robert, who is a personal friend of the President's, has written to him on the subject—as Mr. C. is a gentleman honorable, intelligent and discreet and in every respect worthy of the attentions of Mr. Monroe, I hope he may not be disappointed in his wishes. If it be indelicate to ask the favour, you would confer an obligation by making his object known to the President.

<sup>2</sup> Monroe's tour of the South and Southwest, April to July 1819

I hope my dear Sir, that I, who can take no exceptions to your general conduct, who make no jesuitical distinctions between different parts of a noble action, for the sake of destroying the whole—who cannot praise and censure in the same breath, raising or lowering my voice as your friends or enemies may be near, I hope that I may be believed when I assure you of my unalterable affection. Believe me Sir, I can only love, honor and

## Library of Congress

respect you, for your Patriotic devotion and illustrious services to your country. Permit me to say it to you who of all men I most honor and respect! My dear General, you must allow the heart to open and the tongue to speak out occasionally, and you must not forget if I trouble you, that your kindness and friendship has induced the belief that you have some regard for me.

The public fever seems to have subsided and no one any more thinks or speaks against our first of Warrior's and of men. Even General Scott has silenced himself. 3 Alas! Alas! how are the mighty fallen! I feel a little mortified that you should have so far mistaken your man as to notice him in the honorable manner you did; for, really he is now lower than your resentment, be it ever so merited or ever so bitter, could desire to see him. It is melancholy that a man of his rank should have voluntarily reduced himself to the level of a coxcomb, for nothing but his inordinate vanity could have impelled to such precipitate ruin. He has ventured like a dicer and sported the last spark of honorable reputation, to gratify a vainglorious boasting.

3 See vol. II., pp. 325, 326, 338, 344, 418.

I have just been to see Jarvis' portrait of you. 4 It is inimitable. He has already made 5 copies for different gentlemen. You perceive that your friends do not forget you. My picture of you, is to be a three quarter full size. Jarvis has a full length for himself. I have not seen Vanderlyne's 5 but understand it is uncommonly fine.

4 John Wesley Jarvis (1781–1839), portrait painter. An engraving from it appears opposite p. 176 of Marquis James's *Andrew Jackson, the Border Captain* .

5 John Vanderlyn (1775–1852), painter. Two portraits of Jackson by him, one of them now hanging in the City Hall of New York, the other in that of Charleston, are figured in Marquis James's *Andrew Jackson* , opposite pp. 160 and 220 respectively.

## Library of Congress

How much do I desire to see you again and with what pleasure do I contemplate the period when you are to renew your visit. You must not forget that as you have excited public interest, so have you also inspired private regard, and that to a degree too that nothing short of constant personal sacrifices on your part will ever be able to release you from. I will go to the Theatre with you, accompany you to dinner parties and assemblies, but when you visit us again *one day or night at least is mine* .

Please to present my respects to Mrs. Jackson. Have the goodness to rem[em]ber me to Col. Butler, Doct. Brunaugh, Capt. Call and Capt. Easter. 6 Mrs. Swartwout and my Brothers desire me to present their humble service, and for myself my dear Sir, accept the assurance of my unalterable attachment. May God preserve you whilst there is an ennemy to be feared or a just man in the country to do you honor.

6 Thomas L. Butler, John C. Bronaugh, Richard K. Call, Richard J. Easter.